

YouthTruth January 2023 Data Selects

@ WSCUHSD Board Meeting - 05.03.2023

Through its validated survey instruments, YouthTruth, a national nonprofit, harnesses student perceptions to help educators and community partners accelerate improvements.



“Student perceptions are linked to academic & life outcomes, so it’s smart to know what your students are experiencing in [their] schools, classrooms,” and community.



Sonoma County
Office of Education

YouthTruth in Sonoma County

- Surveying since 2017
- 142 schools across 30 districts
- Over 60,000 participants this year



WHAT YOUTHTRUTH MEASURES IN SONOMA COUNTY

STUDENT

Engagement

This summary measure describes the degree to which students perceive high expectations and feel engaged with their school and their education.

Academic Challenge

This summary measure describes the degree to which students feel their learning is challenging and relevant.

Culture

Varies by grade-level... elementary is orderly and respectful classroom; secondary is respectful and fair school.

Belonging and Peer Collaboration

This summary measure describes the degree to which students feel welcome at their school and have collaborative relationships with their classmates.

Relationships

This summary measure describes the degree to which students feel they receive support and personal attention from their teachers.

College & Career Readiness (high only)

This summary measure describes the degree to which students feel equipped to pursue college and careers.

Emotional & Mental Health

Students are asked to describe the degree to which they have external supports and intrinsic resources they can use to cope with problems.

Project-Based Learning

Students are asked a series of questions about their engagement with project- and problem-based learning

Drugs & Alcohol (secondary only)

Students in Sonoma County Schools schools were asked whether, during the past month, they have used any of the following intoxicants or substances.

Obstacles to Learning (secondary only)

Students are asked whether, various circumstances make it hard for them to do their best.

Local Resilience Questions (secondary only)

Custom resilience questions for Sonoma County.

STAFF

Engagement

This summary measure describes the degree to which staff feel engaged in their work and empowered to influence their schools.

Relationships

This summary measure describes the degree to which staff experience positive relationships in their school based on respect, care and approachability.

Culture

This summary measure describes the degree to which staff believe that their school fosters a culture of shared vision, respect, and effective communication.

Professional Development & Support

This summary measure describes the degree to which staff receive meaningful feedback, have opportunities to grow professionally and feel supported in their work.

School Safety

This summary measure describes the degree to which staff feel the school is a safe learning environment.

FAMILY

Engagement

This summary measure describes the degree to which families are engaged in their school and empowered to influence decision making.

Relationships

This summary measure describes the degree to which families experience positive relationships in their school based on respect, care and approachability.

Culture

This summary measure describes the degree to which families believe their school fosters shared goals, respect, fairness, and diversity.

Communications & Feedback

This summary measure describes the degree to which there are open and effective lines of communication between families and schools.

Resources

This summary measure describes the degree to which families believe that their school deploys the necessary resources to support students.

School Safety

This summary measure describes the degree to which families believe that their school is a safe place for students.



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January 2023

We heard from over **1,700**
West Sonoma County Union High School
District Community Members

1,254 students in grades 9-12 (81% response rate)

364 parents & guardians (23% response rate)

116 staff (85% response rate)

 This includes participants from both **Analy** and **Laguna High Schools**.

How do YouthTruth's 4Ds help us stay curious about the data?



Defensive

Attack other; avoid taking ownership; only look outward for explanation



Dismissive

Questions data validity or survey methodology; skeptical of value of student voice



Dejected

Attack self; avoid because it's hard to hear; only notice the negative; "we're doing it all wrong"



Downplay the negative

Only latching onto positive data; trouble hearing constructive criticism

Survey Theme	Student	Percent Change	Family	Percent Change	Staff	Percent Change
Engagement	43%	-2	31%	+14	72%	+17
Relationships	35%	+3	62%	+4	86%	+1
Culture	24%		47%	+16	61%	+20
Academic Challenge	54%	-1	NA		NA	
Belonging	46%	+2	NA		NA	
Instructional Methods	NA		NA		NA	
College & Career Readiness	23%	+7	NA		NA	
Communication & Feedback	NA		40%	+7	NA	
School Safety	NA		43%	+14	62%	+6
Resources	NA		48%	+8	NA	
Professional Development & Support	NA		NA		47%	+9

Color Key

- 0-24th percentile
- 25-49th percentile
- 50-74th percentile
- 75-100th percentile

Proportion of positive ratings for each survey theme from each participating stakeholder group

Survey Theme	Student	Percent Change	Family	Percent Change	Staff	Percent Change
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Proportion of positive ratings for each survey theme from each participating stakeholder group

Within the Culture theme, compared to other participating high schools, the highest rated questions for WSCUHSD staff was:

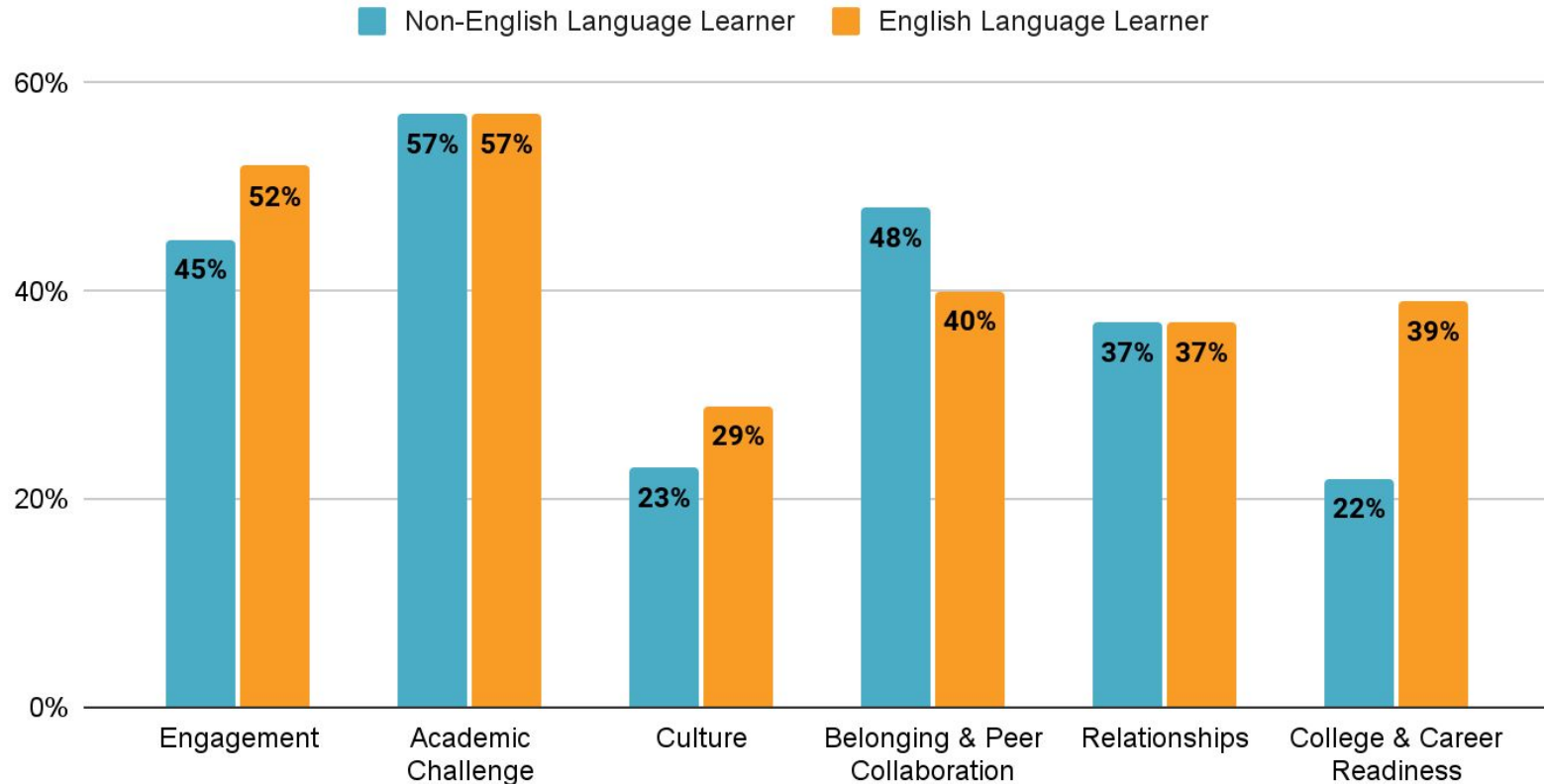
- Discipline in this school is fair.

Within the Culture theme, compared to other participating high schools, the lowest rated questions for WSCUHSD students was:

- Discipline in this school is fair.

Students' Perceptions of All Survey Themes

Proportion of positive ratings for each survey theme



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Thank you

